

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25

RSR-01 /127 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9017

FOL TEL DATED MAY 22 FROM BIEN HOA SENT ACTION SAIGON RPTD
FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0136

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VC

SUBJ: DAILY MR3 SITREP - 22 MAY 1973

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR3 REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS MAY 22, WITH ONLY 13 INCIDENTS REPORTED. FIVE OF THESE WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), FIVE WERE GROUND ATTACKS, TWO MININGS, AND ONE GROUND- TO- AIR FIRING. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE SIX RVNAF KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED, AND 17 NVA/ VC KILLED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 48 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE; NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED.

2. A PATROL OF THE 49 TH ARVN REGIMENT MADE CONTACT WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE 12 KM EAST OF PHU KHUONG DISTRICT WON, TAY NINH PROVINCE, RESULTING IN 14 COMMUNISTS KILLED. AN ARMS CACHE WAS FOUND NEARBY CONTAINING 242 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR AND ROCKET AMMO, 10,000 ROUNDS OF AK AMMO, 18 POUNDS OF TNT, 20 ELECTRICAL FUSES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THREE KILO OF DOCUMENTS, WHICH IDENTIFIED COMMUNIST UNIT AS AN ELEMENT OF THE 429 TH SAPPER BATTALION.

3. IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE A VNAF HELICOPTER ON TRAINING MISSION WAS SHOT DOWN 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF DON LUAN DISTRICT TOWN, KILLING THREE TRAINEES ABROAD. FLIGHT CREW WAS RESCUED. (COMMENT: " TRAINING

MISSIONS" ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WITHIN ONE'S OWN AREA OF CONTROL, BUT 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF DON LUAN IS BASICALLY COMMUNIST AREA. END COMMENT).

4. TWO MINE INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHILE RVNAF UNITS WERE CONDUCTING CLEARING OPERATIONS IN LONG AN AND GIA DINH PROVINCES. TOTAL CASUALTIES FROM BOTH INCIDENTS WERE ONE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED.

5. A REGION V ICCS CANDEL SAYS NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO ORGANIZE PRG SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED AMERICAN BOMBING IN NORTHERN BINH LONG PROVINCE. CANDEL SAID IT IS A TRADE-OFF -- IF PRG WANTS INVESTIGATION THEY WILL HAVE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON SECURITY. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT PRG WAS IN A SITUATION LIKE " THE GIRL WHO CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN RAPED -- SHE IS BETTER OFF TALKING ABOUT IT THAN SUBMITTING TO A MEDICAL EXAMINATION."

6. XUAN LOC ICCS CANDEL HAS PROVIDED CONSUL WITH GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNIST OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THAT TRUCE SUB-REGION. XUAN LOC TEAM HAS SUBMITTED ONLY FOUR REPORTS TO REGION V. IN THREE INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED PRG VIOLATIONS, THEY SPLIT 2-2 WITH COMMUNISTS ADMITTING INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED, BUT CLAIMING THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BLAME PRG. FOURTH INVESTIGATION RESULTED IN FOUR DIFFERENT REPORTS.

7. IF GVN HAS TO MAKE SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED PRG VIOLATIONS, POLGARIANS SAY ICCS INVESTIGATION IS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE AREA IN QUESTION IS OBVIOUSLY CONTESTED AND THAT TPJMC SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHO CONTROLS IT. ONCE INVESTIGATION BEGINS, PRINCIPAL POLGARIAN PLOY IS TO DENIGRATE EVIDENCE AGAINST PRG. COMMUNISTS CLAIM THERE IS NO PROOF THAT DEAD SOLDIERS ARE PRG BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CARRY PLAF IDS OR BATTLE PLANS; PERHAPS THEY WERE " ARMED FARMERS" OR " BANDITS." BY SAME TOKEN, THEY SAY THERE IS NO PROOF THAT PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS ON THEIR BODIES WERE NOT

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PLANTED THERE. THEY DISMISS TESTIMONY OF GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AND

CIVILIAN WITNESSES AS " LIES," BADGER WITNESSES, AND SEIZEHYPON ANY INCONSISTENCY TO UNDERMINE THEIR CREDIBILITY. ON ONE OCCASION, CANDEL PRODUCED A CPATURED COMMUNIST SOLDIER WHO ADMITTED HAVING BEEN IN PLAF AND TAKEN PART IN VIOLATION, AND THEY CORROBORATED THE MAN' S IDENTITY FROM GVN POLICE RECORDS AND INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF HIS NATIVE HAMLET WHO REMEMBERED WHEN HE LEFT THE HAMLET TO FOLLOW THE VC. POLGARIANS CONTENTED THAT GVN POLICE RECORDS WERE RIGGED AND CIVILIANS INSTRUCTED TO LIE. POLGARIANS SOMETIMES SEEM EMBARRASSED BY POSITIONS TYEY TOOD, BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON AND BIEN HOA.

8. CANDEL SAID TEN INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN LONG KHANH AND FOUR OTHERS SCHEDULED SOON INPHUOC TUY (NONE YET REQUESTED IN VUNG TAU). HE THOUGHT NONE WOULD PRODUCE UNANIMOUS REPORTS. CANDEL AND INDODEL IN XUAN LOC SEEM DETERMINED TO PRESS ON AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECENT INCREASE IN ANTI- CIVILIAN TERRORISM MIGHT OFFER EASIER PROOF OF PRG VIOLATIONS.

9. MR 3 CLAIMS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 3,233 COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE- FIRE SINCE IT WENT INTO EFFECT. DURING MAY 14 - 20, MR 3 REPORTS HAVING EXPENDED 5,605 ROUNDS OF 105 MM, 1,291 ROUNDS 155 MM, AND 114 ROUNDS 175 MM. DURING THE SAME PERIOD THEY REPORT 284 AIR SURTIES.

10. EFFECTIVE TODAY, COMMUNIST FORCES ARE PROHIBITING PEIOPLE FROM ENTERING THE JUNGLE IN PHUOC HOA, LONG PHUOC, AND THAI THIEN VILLAGE OF LONG THANH DISTRICT, BIEN HOA PROVINCE. SINCE MAY 17, THEY HAVE PREVENTED PEOPLE FROM CROSSING BRIDGE 17 IN DAI AN VILLAGE, CONG THANH DISTRICT (ALSO BIEN HOA). TRADITIONALLY, SUCH TEMPORARY PROHIBITIONS HAVE THE PURPOSE OF SCREENING MOVE- MENTS OF COMMUNIST TROOPS AND SUPPLIES.

11. VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEVEN VILLAGES IN LONG KHANH PROV- INCE MAY 20 TOOK PLACE WITHOUT UNTOWARD INCIDENT -- I. E. , NO VC/ INITIATED VIOLENCE, AND NO DEMOCRACY PARTY CANDIDATES FEATED. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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